

541,056

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
22 July 2004 (22.07.2004)

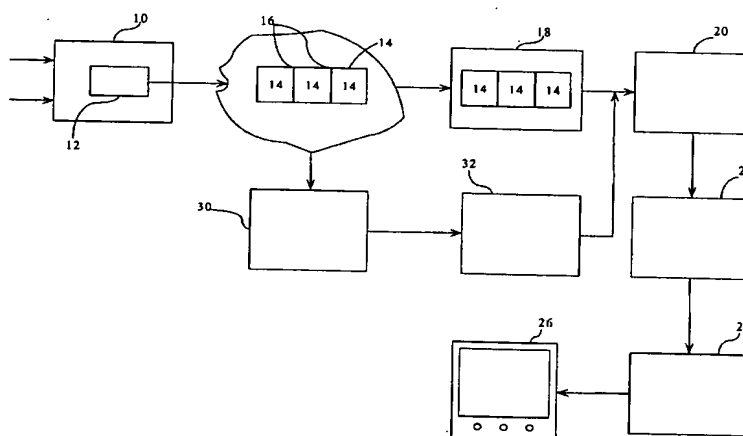
PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/062295 A1

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: H04N 9/79, 5/926, 5/91
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/IB2004/000064
- (22) International Filing Date: 5 January 2004 (05.01.2004)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data: 60/438,219 6 January 2003 (06.01.2003) US
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- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Published:
— with international search report

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR IMPROVING AUDIO/VIDEO SIGNAL SYNC STABILITY IN DIGITAL RECORDING DEVICES



(57) Abstract: Video signals are converted into a stream of digital numbers arranged in a sequence of digitized video frames (14), neighboring frames being separated by a synchronization signal (16). A sensing circuitry (30) monitors the synchronization signals and detects absent synchronization signals. A clock generator (32) generates a replacement synchronization signal based on the monitored synchronization signals. The replacement signals can replace all of the synchronization signals, e.g., with an average sync inserted either at a fixed rate or at an actual clock rate. In a preferred embodiment, a learning circuitry (42) collects and averages the clock rate of the synchronization signals for a preselected duration. The value is supplied to the clock generator to output the replacement synchronization signals at the actual clock rate. A compression circuit (20) is clocked by the output of the clock generator.

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— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

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